

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

September 7, 2004

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Shea.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, O'Neil, Shea,
DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Absent: Aldermen Porter and Lopez

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Barbara Hagan, 154 Winter Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Prison/Health Office) stated:

I'm here quickly to just mention two items: one, is to voice publicly my opposition to any federal halfway prison coming to Manchester in the downtown area and I'd like to thank the Board of Aldermen for the letter that they recently wrote opposing this and for their vote.

The second thing I would like to ask you to do as our elected officials is to take a look for us at heads of departments, commissions, appointed commissioners and maybe determine when it is appropriate that that particular officer or commissioner is able to use his office, his influence and taxpayer's money to effect a certain vote that may be coming up in the City and when it is not appropriate. I think when we're talking about using taxpayer's money to promote a special side of an issue that's going to be voted on and I'm speaking specifically about the fluoridation issue and our Public Health Officer. We need to be very careful that taxpayer's money is not used to sway the vote because the reason there is a vote is because there are two sides to the story. So, I'd just like you to look at that because the taxpayer's do

pay those salaries and do pay for those officers and I think that that's an important issue and I thank you for your time.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Safety Issues) stated:

There are three kinds of people...those who make things happen, those who watch for things to happen, and those who wonder what happened. Which one of these are you? That's an important question in what's been happening in our City lately. We must erode the neighborhood violence and create the erosion of common sense, we must stop the importation of inside gangs/drugs coming into our city which cause a big part of our community's neighborhood violence. This week, three young men in Boston were shot down...a 19 year old man and a 14 year old brother were hunted down and then shot to death in Lowell. Right here, in our own city, as it happened time and time again but even this weekend we had a man who got into a fight in a bar and lost his right eye. We have arsonist's in our city, we have drive-by shootings, we have a terrible drug problem...what is this city doing about it? We have less officers on duty today than we had ten years ago and our population is climbing. We are mothballing some of our Fire Department equipment because we can't afford to operate it. We ought to think safety first...and, the federal halfway house...please do not let the federal government make that mistake and bring it to our residential neighborhoods. Thank you.

Leslie Vasquez, 968 Elm Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Halfway House) stated:

I'm here on behalf of Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services. Over the past ten years MNHS has worked hard to bring safe, decent, affordable housing. It has come to our attention that one of the proposed sites for a federally-funded halfway house is in the north end. This proposed site is next to property that we spent nearly three years and over \$11 million to renovate. This property has received recognition from the Manchester Historic Association and just last year was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We take great pride in the fact that so many people have a safe place to call home. Raising kids and bringing up a family should be done in a safe and secure environment. As the Tenant's Service Coordinator I speak that tenants have engaged satisfaction on living on our main street. Over 200 people live in these properties...ten months out of the year kids are picked up and dropped off from and to or near the proposed site. Brining in a halfway house changes the atmosphere which our tenants have created. Thank you.

Tracy Degges, 153 Cedar Street, Manchester, NH (Re: Halfway House) stated:

I'm here tonight as a concerned resident of the center city and a support of MNHS. I think it's very important that I go on the record as being totally opposed to the idea of bringing a federally-funded halfway house onto Elm Street. As a tenant of MNHS I am well aware of the effect and pride that MNHS puts into the neighborhoods. A few years ago MNHS completed the 68-unit that sits at 1382 to 1470 Elm Street. This property sits right next to the building that is being proposed for that federal halfway house. Sixty-eight families translates into about 100 children living in that place. Manchester NHS first created safe and

affordable housing that families are proud to call home. Raising kids next to a federal halfway house is not resident safe, does not create a sense of home. The City of Manchester has done a tremendous job sprucing up downtown and I sincerely feel that a federally-funded halfway house on our main street is a step in the wrong direction. For the past couple of weeks we have been working with a petition that was started by Alderman Frank Guinta. We have been able to collect over 200 signatures from people who are in opposition to the halfway housing being placed at the north Elm location. This is a family and community-oriented place and not a place for a federal halfway house. Thank you for your time.

Harold Levine, 49 Hill Croft Road, Manchester, NH (Re: Ward 2) stated:

I come here tonight a very disgruntled taxpayer as last month on the morning of you last Aldermanic meeting I called the Mayor's Office trying to seek an appointment with the Mayor's Assistant but everyone was too busy, they would call me back and to this date I have not received a call back and I thought I'd wait until tonight. I think, Mr. Mayor, you've got to put down what you're young people in your office and tell them that the Mayor's Office is open to the public or it isn't open to the public. I told him what I wanted to speak about and that was the Tyson property that was coming before the Aldermanic Board that evening as I had additional input. Another reason I had called and wanted to speak to the Mayor or his Assistant was I don't like the negotiating team that's handling it. In the past they've handled for the last administration property without knowing that the City needs mortgages when they give away a piece of property and the same think that, of course, I believe the taxpayer's of Manchester...an extra million dollars for their negligence on the Singer property where the Verizon is and I'm referring mainly because it comes over very, very...as a very conceited person who always looks down at the taxpayer's as he goes by all of the Aldermen, our City Finance Officer and I can quote you from the column, the *City Hall* column on August 16th and Augsut 30th...on the sixteenth our Finance Officer very arrogantly as usual told Alderman Gatsas and taxpayer's as far as he was concerned the issue was finished. On the thirtieth the same gentleman got up and there was an issue and it was directed at Alderman Gatsas about going back to an English teacher...I think he should, especially handling the City's finances get some kind of a lesson finally about learning how to negotiate for the taxpayer's because every time it seems something through Finance whether it's him or his assistant it always costs the taxpayer's more and more money and I thank you.

Karen Angela Carter, 1267 Elm Street #7, Manchester, NH (NH State Planning Advisory Council) stated:

I'm here to also speak in opposition to the federal halfway house here in the city at this time. I do believe there is a perception from the citizens especially the residents of the downtown area that we do not have violence and crime under control in the city at this time there's been a lot of problems, I understand that the Police Department are trying very hard to curtail what's happening but I think we need more time and more open dialogue with the citizens this time and I thank you very much for inviting everyone.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Guinta, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk